Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00064 120640Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00 IO-13 /108 W
----------120646Z 013861 /17
R 120520Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7559
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0064

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EPAP ETRN ETRD EQUIP ELTN EALR EAGR PORG PFOR LA TH VN SW
SUBJECT: SRV PROMISES TO DELIVER LPDR-BOUND AID EQUIPMENT AFTER ONE YEAR DELAY

1. THE SRV HAS LOCATED EIGHT PORTABLE SAWMILLS LOST SINCE EARLY 1976 IN HAIPHONG, ACCORDING TO PIETRO BORRETTI, COORDINATOR OF UNIDO INTEGRATED WOODWORKING PROJECT IN LAOS. BORRETTI TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 9 THAT HE RECEIVED A CABLE THE DAY BEFORE FROM HIS CENTRAL OFFICES IN GENEVA SAYING THAT THE SRV HAD PROMISED TO REPACK THE EQUIPMENT FOR IMMEDIATE OVERLAND SHIPMENT TO THE LPDR.

2. BORRETTI TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT PROVIDED THE SAWMILLS VALUED AT $285,000 TO THE LPDR TO BE USED BY THE UNIDO PROJECT AND THAT THE EQUIPMENT WAS DELIVERED TO HAIPHONG BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00064 120640Z

1976. THE VIETNAMESE FAILURE TO DELIVER THE EQUIPMENT, SAID BORRETTI, HAD CAUSED UNDIO AND LAO OFFICIALS TO SUSPECT THE SRV HAD APPROPRIATED THE SAWMILLS FOR THEIR OWN USE. BORRETTI SAID THAT THE HAD LINKED THE LOST SHIPMENT IN HAIPONG WITH RUMORS THAT THE VIET-NAMESE WERE USING SWEDISH PORTABLE SAWMILLS IN SAM

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NEUA TO STRIP LAOS OF ITS NATURAL WEALTH AND SMUGGLE TIMBER INTO VIETNAM.

3. BORRETTI SAID THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAD SOURED LAO OFFICIALS ON USING VIENTMESE PORTS FOR TRANSPORTING GOOD TO LPDR. HE ADDED THAT THE LAO NOW REQUEST AID BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH BANGKOK BECAUSE IT IS FASTER AND MORE RELIABLE.
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** n/a
**Expiration:**
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Review Markings:**
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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